United Nations S/2000/631

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 June 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 23 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the eight-point plan of action adopted by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in relation to the crisis in Sierra Leone, as set forth on 21 June 2000 by Mr. Modibo Sidibé, Minister for Foreign Affairs and leader of the ECOWAS mission at the Security Council meeting with the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Committee:

1. Unconditional release of the hostages, and restitution of their equipment and armaments;
2. Implementation of the ceasefire;
3. Inquiry into the resumption of hostilities;
4. Regional investigation into the traffic in diamonds;
5. Security arrangements regarding Corporal Fodey Sankoh;
6. Revival of the Lomé Accord;
7. Financial and logistical support for the deployment of a larger number of ECOWAS troops with a view to strengthening the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone;
8. Modification of the mandate of the Mission for greater enforcement action with a view to the restoration of peace in Sierra Leone.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issue this letter as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Moctar **Ouane**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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United Nations S/2000/632

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 June 2000

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in that country

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1233 (1999) of 6 April 1999, by which the Council requested me to keep it regularly informed and to submit a report every 90 days on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS).

2. Members of the Council will recall that in my last report of 24 March 2000 (S/2000/250), I highlighted the major challenges confronting the newly established democratic Government during the post-electoral period and the contributions of UNOGBIS in support of the national efforts to meet those challenges.

3. The present report covers developments in Guinea-Bissau since 24 March 2000 and presents an overview of the activities of UNOGBIS in support of the Government's peace-building efforts, in accordance with its revised mandate (S/2000/202).

II. Political developments

4. During the period under review, the Government of President Kumba Yala has essentially focused on consolidating the authority of the newly established democratic institutions in the face of continued interference from the military establishment, following protracted consultations with a wide spectrum of actors, who had played a prominent role during the power-sharing transitional phase. The continued high profile of the former military junta on the political scene and the lack of a constitution anchored in democratic principles constitute particularly difficult challenges for the Government. Discussions mediated by civil society leaders under the leadership of the Bishop of Bissau and facilitated by my Representative, Samuel Nana-Sinkam, have intensified with a view to redefining the role of the military in the new democratic dispensation in the country. Some progress has been made, especially with the establishment by the National Assembly of a Commission of Good Offices to bridge differences between the Government and the military establishment.

5. The appointment, on 7 April, by President Yala of a new Attorney-General and a civilian as Minister of Defence and the decision of the military establishment, following protracted consultations with a wide spectrum of actors, not to challenge the President's decree replacing the Chief of Naval Staff have been seen as further strengthening the authority of the constitutional order. Furthermore, on 7 June, during the observance, in Bissau, of the second anniversary of the outbreak of the military conflict, the military reaffirmed its intention to resume its traditional role and to subjugate itself to the civilian authorities.

6. On 15 May, the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), President Alpha Konaré of Mali, despatched a Special Envoy to Guinea-Bissau to discuss with the authorities and other parties concerned the latest developments in the country as well as matters pertaining to peace and security in the subregion. ECOWAS member States also discussed the situation in Guinea-Bissau during their twenty-third summit meeting, held on 28 and 29

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May in Abuja. In their final communiqué, they expressed concern over continuing tensions between President Yala and the former military junta and noted that President Yala had been duly elected through free, honest and transparent elections recognized as such by the international community.

7. In a worrying development, religious and ethnic tensions erupted in some northern parts of the country between the Fula and Felupe communities and in the East between the Fula and Mandingo communities. The authorities, with the assistance of civil society, have taken immediate steps to calm the situation and reconcile the communities concerned. My Representative has also urged tolerance and called on Bissau-Guineans to work and live in harmony and avoid endangering the peace they have worked so hard to achieve.

8. As the Government continues to restore post-conflict normalcy, priority has been given to relaunching the economy with a view to improving the lives of the people. The National Assembly has approved the Government's four-year programme of work and, on 6 June, approved the 2000 budget amounting to some 86 billion CFA francs, reflecting the country's tight revenue and difficult overall economic realities. Government officials increasingly point out that the smooth functioning of state institutions is still hampered by the lack of resources.

9. In order to further strengthen the unfolding democratic process, the authorities have also stressed the need for a new post-conflict constitution. Consequently, Guinea-Bissau's Supreme Court of Justice has set up a commission to review the current constitution with a view to bringing it in line with the new democratic realities. The authorities have also announced plans to hold municipal elections in the course of the current year and have appealed for international assistance.

III. Military and security aspects

10. In the subregional context, government officials recognize that lasting security and stability depend to a large extent on peaceful cooperation with the country's neighbours. The visit to Bissau, on 29 April, of newly elected President Wade of Senegal was therefore welcomed as a significant confidence-building measure. When the security situation in Senegal's Casamance region along the border of Senegal and Guinea-Bissau deteriorated last April, the leaders of the two countries agreed to de-escalate tensions and discussed cooperative strategies of securing their common border. The unstable situation along the border is a further illustration of the security challenges facing the new Government in Guinea-Bissau.

11. My Representative, during meetings he held with President Wade and Senegalese officials in Dakar in early May, discussed ways to sustain and consolidate the initiatives on border security generated during the President's visit to Bissau in April. Mr. Nana-Sinkam will continue to explore how best to contribute to ongoing efforts to enhance security and stability with Guinea-Bissau's other neighbours in future visits to other ECOWAS leaders. I shall revert to the Council when my Representative has concluded his consultations.

12. Internally, there was a distinct rise in armed criminality and banditry attributable, in part, to the prevailing difficult economic situation, institutional and logistical weaknesses of the national police and the uncontrolled circulation of weapons in civilian hands throughout the country. In order to raise national awareness of this problem and to stimulate a discussion on ways and means of addressing it, the Human Rights League of Guinea-Bissau, in cooperation with UNOGBIS, organized a conference on criminality from 4 to 11 May in Bissau, which brought together representatives from various government ministries, the National Assembly, the judiciary and members of civil society. Meanwhile, UNOGBIS and other members of the United Nations country team, especially the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), continue to support the Government's efforts to launch a civilian disarmament project, for which funding is being sought from the international community.

13. Another critical security issue confronting the Government is the presence of landmines planted throughout the country during the recent armed conflict. The Government has approved a project document on demining and set up a national institution for demining activities. Under a partnership arrangement, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), national institutions and NGOs will focus on sensitization, while the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will provide material support for national capacity-building and concrete demining operations. UNDP has already provided US $150,000 for that purpose and appealed

for additional funding from the international community. The preparatory assistance phase of the demining project is scheduled to begin in July. Once the necessary funding has been secured, the project will be extended beyond the preparatory phase.

14. In the area of demobilization and reintegration, a World Bank mission visited the country in mid-June and discussed with the Government the time-frame for the commencement of the demobilization and reintegration programme. The Government has made available facilities to house such a programme. Meanwhile, WFP and UNOGBIS are collaborating with the Government to provide daily food rations for six months to soldiers who have demobilized voluntarily.

IV. Human rights situation

15. While the human rights situation remains worrying, the Government has recommitted itself to the promotion of respect of the human rights of all Bissau-Guineans and has taken important steps in that direction. For its part UNOGBIS has continued to promote greater awareness of human rights issues, the rule of law and a wider understanding of United Nations principles in these domains. The Ministry of Justice, with the assistance of UNOGBIS, has initiated a technical programme to elaborate a national plan for human rights.

16. On 3 May, officials from the Office of the Attorney-General and UNOGBIS visited prisons to assess detention conditions. Following the visit, some Bissau-Guineans detained since the 7 May 1999 events were provisionally released. By mid-June, only 13 detainees of the original number of nearly 400 people were still detained. President Yala has repeatedly called on the judiciary to speed up trial proceedings. To assist the Government's efforts to expedite free and fair trials, UNOGBIS has facilitated the training of some 50 judges. A number of independent human rights organizations, including the OAU's African Commission on Human and People's Rights, have confirmed their interest in observing these trials.

17. In a series of recent incidents widely criticized by segments of the society, several people, including at least two journalists, were detained in May for allegedly criticizing government officials and policies. They were subsequently released, following pressure from the media and civil society. In a move not only to further energize the media sector but also to encourage a free exchange of views in the society, UNOGBIS, with funding from the Government of Germany, is facilitating the setting up of a radio and television project which will provide a forum for the free discussion of issues of national interest.

V. Humanitarian aspects

18. A well targeted humanitarian assistance strategy, good climatic conditions, a satisfactory harvest and the peaceful evolution of developments in the post-electoral period have helped significantly reduce the need for life-sustaining humanitarian assistance in Guinea-Bissau. As a result, on 7 April 2000 the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat closed its Bissau office. While the Office's training programmes designed to strengthen the Government's capacity to manage national emergencies have now been assumed by UNDP, the Office will continue to support programmes aimed at ensuring long-term stability, including demobilization, weapons collection and demining.

19. Following consultations between officials of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Governments of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, the repatriation from Guinea of the remaining 900 Bissau-Guinean refugees began on 15 June.

VI. Social and economic aspects

20. As normalcy continues to return to the country and the Government strives to cope with the most immediate economic and social needs of the population, endemic poverty remains the single most debilitating social and economic problem, threatening the full evolution of democracy and the consolidation of constitutional order. The level of underemployment and unemployment remain disturbingly high, and the Government experiences persistent difficulties in paying the salaries of civil servants who constitute the bulk of all formally employed Bissau-Guinean citizens.

21. Health, education, agriculture and good governance remain the Government's economic and social priorities, but the implementation of the Government's programme for the first 100 days did not

meet with much success, largely due to the complications caused by the interference of the military in the political process, the lack of resources and expertise available to the Government and poor infrastructure. Due to the scarcity of resources, especially for the procurement of fishing boats, the Government has been unable to fully exploit its natural resources.

22. As part of its ongoing dialogue with the donor community, on 11 April, the Government of Guinea-Bissau organized a meeting to review its programmes, including those presented at a UNDP round-table conference held in May 1999 in Geneva. Following the 11 April meeting, the Government decided to develop programmes in good governance and poverty eradication as well as to revise the national long-term perspective study. On 12 and 13 June, UNDP and the Government discussed the further elaboration of these programmes and the time-frame for a formal round-table conference. The Government has, meanwhile, appealed to those donors who pledged assistance to Guinea-Bissau at the 1999 Geneva round-table conference to disburse their commitments and thus permit the Government's development programmes, stressing that Guinea-Bissau, by holding free and fair elections and establishing a democratic Government, has met the conditions set by donor countries for disbursing their pledges.

VII. Observations

23. While important progress has been made on the ground since my last report, many challenges remain as Guinea-Bissau seeks to restore lasting peace, stability and sustainable development and to improve the critically low living standards of its people.

24. Consolidation of the nascent democratic institutions remains a long-term objective. Bissau-Guineans themselves must take the lead in making their hard-won achievements work to heal the wounds and to promote reconciliation in an atmosphere of respect of the constitutional order. I welcome the repeated commitment by the military establishment to withdraw from the political process and to accept the authority of the democratically elected institutions, and urge that these commitments be translated into concrete action without further delay.

25. The restructuring of the armed forces is crucial for the unfolding democratization process and remains one of the Government's post-electoral priorities. However, in the absence of adequate resources, this remains a daunting and potentially a problematic challenge. I therefore appeal once more to the international community to provide the necessary financial and material support to enable the Government address this issue effectively.

26. Further, given the serious paucity of the country's national resources and infrastructure, I call on the international community to continue to provide assistance to Guinea-Bissau to strengthen its institutional capacity and further smooth implementation of its rehabilitation, reconstruction and development priorities. Such a coordinated cooperative interaction between national and international efforts provides the basic hope for the realization of our common goal of stability and progress in Guinea-Bissau.

27. I am grateful to those Member States that have made contributions to the UNOGBIS Trust Fund. I appeal for continued and additional support. The sustained help of the international community is crucial for the consolidation of the progress achieved so far, and for helping Guinea-Bissau lay a durable foundation for a better life for its people.

28. Finally, I should like to pay tribute to my Representative, Samuel Nana-Sinkam, the staff of UNOGBIS, and the whole United Nations country team for their commendable contributions to the peace-building efforts of the Government and people of Guinea-Bissau.

United Nations S/2000/633

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 June 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 27 June 2000 from the Chairperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1160 (1998) addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the annual report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1160 (1998) (see annex). The present report, which was adopted by the Committee on 27 June 2000, is being submitted pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council dated 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(*Signed*) M. Patricia **Durrant**
Chairperson
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1160 (1998)

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Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1160 (1998)

1. The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1160 (1998) is submitting this report to the Council in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 9 of the aforementioned resolution, which was adopted by the Council on 31 March 1998. The report covers the work of the Committee from 1 January to 31 December 1999.

I. Mandate of the Committee

2. By its resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, the Security Council decided, *inter alia*, to deploy in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, under United Nations auspices, international civil and security presences, the former in the form of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), and the latter, the Kosovo Force (KFOR). In the second and third preambular paragraphs of the same resolution, the Council recalled its resolutions 1160 (1998) and 1199 (1998), and regretted that they had not been fully complied with. In paragraph 16 of the same resolution, the Council exempted from the established prohibitions arms and related *matériel* for the use of the international civil and security presences. During the period covered by the present report, no modification was made by the Security Council to the mandate of the Committee as outlined in its resolutions 1160 (1998) and 1199 (1998).

3. Following consultations, the members of the Security Council agreed to elect Ambassador Celso L. N. Amorim (Brazil) as Chairman and the delegations of the Gambia and the Netherlands as Vice-Chairmen of the Committee for 1999. In June, Ambassador Gelson Fonseca Jr. (Brazil) was elected Chairman of the Committee for the term ending on 31 December 1999. He succeeded Ambassador Amorim, who left for Geneva to undertake other assignments.

4. The Committee held four formal and seven informal meetings. The present report was adopted by the Committee on 27 June 2000.

II. Status of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998)

5. Only one reply was received in 1999 (from Oman) concerning the measures that States had been requested to institute in meeting the obligations set out in paragraph 12 of resolution 1160 (1998).

6. The Committee continued to attach paramount importance to the implementation by States, in particular those bordering the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, of the prohibitions contained in resolution 1160 (1998). At its meeting held on 11 March 1999, the Committee noted and brought to the attention of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina that it remained the only country bordering the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which had not yet reported on the steps taken to

give effect to the established prohibitions. Bosnia and Herzegovina has yet to respond to the Committee.

7. On 22 March 1999, the Committee informed the Bulgarian authorities that it was not in a position to approve their request for the shipment of industrial explosives to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Notwithstanding that position, the Committee decided to commend the authorities of Bulgaria for seeking the Committee's advice on this matter.

8. On 22 June 1998, the Bulgarian News Agency BTA reported that a Bulgarian lorry had been detained on 18 June owing to the lack of a special permit for the export of Bulgarian-made spare parts for MI-8 helicopters to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. On the basis of that article, the Committee addressed a letter dated 12 January 1999 to the Bulgarian authorities seeking clarification on the issue. The Committee has not yet received a response.

9. On 29 July 1999, responding to the request of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations in which it had sought the advice of the Committee as to whether the export of ammunition for M84 tanks from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Ministry of Defence of Kuwait, on the basis of a contract concluded in 1989, would be permissible under paragraph 8 of resolution 1160 (1998), the Committee informed the Mission that the matter did not fall within the Committee's mandate.

10. On 16 August 1999, the Committee addressed letters to all international organizations (Danube Commission, European Union (EU), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Western European Union (WEU)) previously involved in the implementation of resolution 1160 (1998) inviting them to renew their assistance to the Committee in discharging its mandate. On 18 October 1999, the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE informed the Committee that the monthly reporting by OSCE had been discontinued following the establishment of UNMIK and that the OSCE mission in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, was discharging its duties in the province as a component of UNMIK. OSCE indicated further that under resolution 1244 (para. 9 (g)), the responsibility for border monitoring was allocated to KFOR and therefore OSCE would not be able to assist the Committee substantively in its work. OSCE would, nevertheless, be ready to make available information it might come across in the course of fulfilling its tasks in the region, both in Kosovo and in those countries adjacent to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in which it maintained a field presence.

11. On 13 August 1999, the Committee reminded the Government of Albania, as a neighbouring State of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, that it had an important role to play in ensuring the implementation of resolution 1160 (1998), in particular concerning paragraph 8, which required that States prevent the sale or supply to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including Kosovo, by their nationals or from their territories, of arms and related *matériel* of all types and spare parts thereof, and that States prevent arming and training for terrorist activities there. The Committee also expressed its conviction that the Government of Albania would undertake all the necessary steps which could contribute to the concerted efforts of the international community to foster stability and peace in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and the region.

12. On 17 November 1999, the Committee addressed identical letters to the States neighbouring the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) in which it reminded them that the primary responsibility for the strict implementation of the measures imposed by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations rested with Member States and pointed out that neighbouring States, in particular had a crucial role to play in enforcing and monitoring sanctions measures and reporting on any violations. In that regard, the Committee sought information on the concrete measures, based on enacted specific legislation or any other action, taken to implement resolutions 1160 (1998) and 1199 (1998), in addition to those measures adopted pursuant to paragraph 12 of resolution 1160 (1998). Only Bulgaria has responded to that request.

13. On 22 December 1999, the Committee requested that the Secretary-General forward its invitation to the international civilian (UNMIK) and security (KFOR) presences in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to consider possible arrangements which would allow them to report on possible violations of the prohibitions established by resolution 1160 (1998).

14. On 29 December 1999, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations addressed a letter to the Chairman of the Committee on behalf of Bernard Kouchner, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK, in which he informed the Committee of the intention of UNMIK to provide side arms for use by the Kosovo Police Service, to be obtained either on a voluntary basis or by purchase. The weapons would remain the exclusive property of UNMIK and their use would be controlled by UNMIK.

15. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland submitted six requests for approval to transfer demining equipment to humanitarian demining organizations working for UNMIK in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Committee approved all of the submitted requests under the no-objection procedure.

III. Cooperation with regional organizations

16. Reports on violations and alleged violations of the sanctions measures from regional and international organizations were limited, especially in the second half of 1999. The Committee discussed at several meetings how best to implement its mandate given this lack of information from the above organizations and the new political framework established by the Security Council in its resolution 1244 (1999).

17. During the period under consideration, the Committee received in total 83 OSCE reports and 2 reports from the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) informing the Committee of possible violations. Although EU and WEU did not provide information on violations, they pledged to assist the Committee in its work. The Danube Commission reported on one occasion that no violations had been observed. The Committee received one report from SFOR reporting on its activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in connection with the implementation of the arms embargo. The Committee also considered 59 press articles on possible violations; 23 of the articles were circulated at the request of a member of the Committee.

18. In his letter dated 22 December 1999 addressed to the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the Sanctions Committee referred to his earlier invitation to the international civil (UNMIK) and security (KFOR) presences in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, on 6 August and 7 September 1999, respectively, to consider possible arrangements that would allow them to report on possible violations of the prohibitions established by resolution 1160 (1998).

IV. Violations and allegations of violations

19. At several meetings, the Committee considered reports on violations of the prohibitions established by Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998) and 1199 (1998). According to OSCE reports at the beginning of 1999 from the OSCE verification and border monitoring missions in the region, smuggling from Albania to Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, continued. The last report received by the Committee on the activities of UNPREDEP, submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1186 (1998), was dated 1 March 1999. Since no reports were received from either States or international organizations after May 1999, the Committee relied upon information gathered by the Secretariat from public sources. Such information indicated that violations of the prohibitions established by resolutions 1160 (1998) and 1199 (1998) had occurred.

V. Observations and recommendations

20. The work of the Sanctions Committee under resolution 1160 (1998) was affected by the absence of an effective comprehensive monitoring mechanism to ensure the effective implementation of the arms embargo and other prohibitions and by the lack of information on possible violations. Therefore, the Committee continued to appeal to the States neighbouring the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and others for information on reported or suspected violations. The information provided by the Secretariat from public sources on possible violations did not often allow the Committee to forward information to Member States enabling them to launch investigations on possible violations.

21. Given that the primary responsibility for the implementation of the prohibitions lies with States, the Committee would like to see a more proactive approach by Governments to the implementation of the established prohibitions, especially with regard to their reporting on possible violations and actions taken to prevent such violations. The Committee considers that it would be useful to further encourage such an approach.

22. With a view to assisting and encouraging Governments in their endeavour to implement the arms embargo and other prohibitions, the Committee is contemplating sending a mission to the region, headed by the Chairman of the Committee, when appropriate.

23. The Committee continues to observe that few States had transmitted any specific information pursuant to paragraph 12 of resolution 1160 (1998) on steps taken to give effect to the prohibitions contained in paragraph 8 of the resolution. Only a few States indicated what measures in fact had been taken to give effect to

the prohibitions established by the Security Council. The Committee feels that this issue should be addressed by the Committee in future.

24. The Committee's contribution to peace and stability in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, by the strict observance of the established prohibitions, can be increased provided that further steps are taken to strengthen the envisaged monitoring arrangements in order to achieve the objectives set out by the Security Council in its relevant resolutions.

United Nations S/2000/634

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 June 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 28 June 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report on the international security presence in Kosovo during the period 23 April to 22 May 2000.

I should be grateful if you would have this report brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (23 April-22 May), there were approximately 45,500 Kosovo Force (KFOR) troops deployed in theatre, with no major deployment changes since the last report.

Security

2. Overall, the situation in Kosovo remains tense. Although the overall level of criminal activity continued to decrease over the reporting period, there was an increase in the level of ethnic violence and related crime, particularly against Kosovar Serbs in the Obilić, Kosovo Polje, Gnjilane, Mitrovica and Vitina areas. Houses were burned, and in Vitina (Multinational Brigade (MNB) (East)), violence culminated in the murder of a Kosovar Serb on 6 May. Later that day, in protest, Serbs held a demonstration, during which roads were blocked and rocks thrown at passing vehicles. The demonstration was closely monitored by KFOR troops and the crowd eventually dispersed late in the evening. On 20 May, in Gojbulja (MNB (North)), a Kosovar Serb was murdered, and two Kosovar Albanians were subsequently arrested for the crime.

3. The hunger strike by Serb and Roma detainees in the Mitrovica detention centre which began on 10 April in protest at the length of their pre-trial detention period, prompted daily demonstrations of support at the beginning of May, involving up to 700 people. KFOR troops monitored the situation. The hunger strike ended on 22 May following an intervention by the Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

4. One KFOR soldier was found dead in MNB (Centre) on 26 April, and an investigation into his death is continuing. Six KFOR troops were slightly injured on 29 April in Mitrovica, when a convoy of four KFOR lorries transporting Kosovar Albanians was blocked by a large number of Kosovar Serbs. The crowd subsequently dispersed. On 10 May, KFOR troops near Vrbovac in MNB (East), who were investigating an explosion in an abandoned house, were assaulted by a crowd of approximately 200 Kosovar Serbs. One KFOR soldier was slightly injured.

5. KFOR troops continued to uncover and confiscate caches of weapons, ammunition and explosives during house searches and traffic control checkpoints. Among the most significant finds were the discovery, on 10 May near Glogovac (MNB (Centre)), of 2 sagger missiles, 20 rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) warheads, 7 RPG launchers, a machine gun and ammunition during a house search. On 11 May in the village of Donje Obrijne (MNB (North)), KFOR troops uncovered a cache of weapons, including AK-47 rifles, hand grenades, detonators and ammunition. On 19 and 20 May, during cordon and search operations in Gnjilane (MNB (East)) and Pec (MNB (West)), the following items were confiscated: 13 rifles/shotguns, a quantity of C-4 explosive with detonation cord and two 150 gram blocks of trinitrotoluene (TNT), various rounds of ammunition and magazines, a 60 millimetre (mm) mortar, 1 M80 anti-tank rocket launcher, 9 hand grenades, 2 radio sets, 3 field phones, 1 cryptographic device and a 22 mm shell. Six Albanians were arrested.

Illegal border activity

6. KFOR troops continued to provide appropriate control of Kosovo's internal boundaries and external borders, and recognized crossing points. All but two of the recognized crossing points within each MNB into the ground safety zone (GSZ) remain closed. There were a number of incidents related to illegal border crossings over the reporting period, mostly at the border crossing point of Morina South (MNB (South)), where 16 people were prevented from illegally crossing into Kosovo. On 11 May, three people did succeed in illegally crossing the border. On 20 May, two men were arrested at the internal Federal Republic of Yugoslavia border with Montenegro after 57 rounds of 7.62 ammunition were discovered in their car. They were handed over to UNMIK police.

7. There were continued reports of paramilitary activities being conducted in and around Dobrosin in the GSZ, including, on 20 May, three explosions near Konculj in a suspected attack by the "Liberation Army of Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac" (UCPMB) on a Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police (MUP) checkpoint.

Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) — arms embargo

8. Although KFOR operations continue to result in weapons seizures, no violations of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) have been reported.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

9. The process of establishing the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) in accordance with its mandate continued throughout the reporting period. The first phase of specialist training was completed and the second phase, focusing on the practical skills required for basic civil emergency response, is under way. The number of work projects has steadily increased and mechanisms to coordinate these projects continue to improve.

10. Over the reporting period, there were several incidents of non-compliance involving KPC members carrying unauthorized weapons, conducting illegal police activities or engaging in threatening behaviour. There have also been reports of individual KPC members, and former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) personnel portraying themselves as KPC, extorting money from local businesses in a number of towns in the province. KFOR has moved to discipline the non-compliant KPC members, some of whom have been suspended. KFOR, UNMIK, the UNMIK police and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have increased their cooperation in order to address KPC non-compliance issues more effectively.

11. The Army of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (VJ) and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia security forces were generally compliant with the terms of the Military Technical Agreement (MTA) and continue to be cooperative in their dealings with KFOR.

Cooperation with international organizations

12. KFOR continued to provide assistance to international organizations and non-governmental organizations throughout Kosovo on a daily basis, on request, with a focus on the distribution of food and construction materials and on the protection and escort of refugees and internally displaced persons. KFOR also supported non-governmental organizations in providing assistance in a spring/summer housing and school reconstruction programme.

13. At the beginning of May, the UNMIK police force numbered 3,145, including 205 border police and 374 members of the Special Police Unit (SPU).

14. KFOR is to establish joint operations centres with UNMIK police at brigade and battalion levels, with the aim of fostering closer cooperation between both organizations. This should improve information exchange and ensure a more rapid reaction in case of incidents.

15. The fourth class of recruits graduated from the Kosovo Police Service School on 20 May, and the 219 cadets began patrolling throughout the province with UNMIK police officers.

16. KFOR continued to support UNMIK at all levels of the civil administration. At the provincial level, the Kosovo Transitional Council (KTC) continued to meet regularly. At the district level, KFOR continued to work closely with the appointed civil administrators, civil administration meetings having been attended by KFOR representatives.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

17. As of 18 May, the refugee repatriation programme organized by IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had assisted 146,642 voluntary returns, primarily from third countries, and predominantly ethnic Albanians, including 3,318 returns from Montenegro. The predicted figure for the whole month of May was 12,300 returnees. KFOR continued to monitor refugee returns and to work closely with UNMIK, UNHCR and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to improve conditions for the Serb minorities in Orahovac, Velika Hoca and Djakovica. According to UNHCR, a large number of displaced persons from Kosovo still remain in Serbia and in Montenegro.

Outlook

18. Overall, tension can be expected to remain high in parts of Kosovo, inter-ethnic tension has the potential to involve KFOR personnel, as has already been the case in Mitrovica. KFOR will continue to work in close coordination with UNMIK to promote and maintain security and stability in the province.

United Nations S/2000/635

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 July 2000

Original: English

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements of its President concerning the situation in Sierra Leone, and in particular its resolutions 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997, 1171 (1998) of 5 June 1998 and 1299 (2000) of 19 May 2000,

Affirming the commitment of all States to respect the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Sierra Leone,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 19 May 2000 (S/2000/455), and in particular its paragraph 94,

Determining that the situation in Sierra Leone continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

A

Expressing its concern at the role played by the illicit trade in diamonds in fuelling the conflict in Sierra Leone, and at reports that such diamonds transit neighbouring countries, including the territory of Liberia,

Welcoming ongoing efforts by interested States, the International Diamond Manufacturers Association, the World Federation of Diamond Bourses, the Diamond High Council, other representatives of the diamond industry and non-governmental experts to improve the transparency of the international diamond trade, and encouraging further action in this regard,

Emphasizing that the legitimate diamond trade is of great economic importance for many States, and can make a positive contribution to prosperity and stability and to the reconstruction of countries emerging from conflict, and *emphasizing further* that nothing in this resolution is intended to undermine the legitimate diamond trade or to diminish confidence in the integrity of the legitimate diamond industry,

Welcoming the decision taken by the member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) at their Abuja summit on 28-29 May 2000 to undertake a regional inquiry into the illegal trade in diamonds,

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Taking note of the letter of 29 June 2000 to its President from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations and of its enclosure (S/2000/641),

1. *Decides* that all States shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the direct or indirect import of all rough diamonds from Sierra Leone to their territory;

2. *Requests* the Government of Sierra Leone to ensure, as a matter of urgency, that an effective Certificate of Origin regime for trade in diamonds is in operation in Sierra Leone;

3. *Also requests* States, relevant international organizations and other bodies in a position to do so to offer assistance to the Government of Sierra Leone to facilitate the full operation of an effective Certificate of Origin regime for Sierra Leone rough diamonds;

4. *Further requests* the Government of Sierra Leone to notify the Committee established by resolution 1132 (1997) ("the Committee") of the details of such a Certificate of Origin regime when it is fully in operation;

5. *Decides* that rough diamonds controlled by the Government of Sierra Leone through the Certificate of Origin regime shall be exempt from the measures imposed in paragraph 1 above when the Committee has reported to the Council, taking into account expert advice obtained at the request of the Committee through the Secretary-General, that an effective regime is fully in operation;

6. *Decides* that the measures referred to in paragraph 1 above are established for an initial period of 18 months, and *affirms* that, at the end of this period, it will review the situation in Sierra Leone, including the extent of the Government's authority over the diamond-producing areas, in order to decide whether to extend these measures for a further period and, if necessary, to modify them or adopt further measures;

7. *Further decides* that the Committee shall also undertake the following tasks:

(a) To seek from all States further information regarding the action taken by them with a view to implementing effectively the measures imposed by paragraph 1 above;

(b) To consider information brought to its attention concerning violations of the measures imposed by paragraph 1 above, identifying where possible persons or entities, including vessels, reported to be engaged in such violations;

(c) To make periodic reports to the Security Council on information submitted to it regarding alleged violations of the measures imposed by paragraph 1 above, identifying where possible persons or entities, including vessels, reported to be engaged in such violations;

(d) To promulgate such guidelines as may be necessary to facilitate the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraph 1 above;

(e) To continue its cooperation with other relevant sanctions committees in particular that established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) of 13 April 1995 concerning Liberia and that established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) of 15 September 1993 concerning the situation in Angola;

8. *Requests* all States to report to the Committee established by resolution 1132 (1997), within 30 days of the adoption of this resolution, on the actions they have taken to implement the measures imposed by paragraph 1 above;

9. *Calls upon* all States, in particular those through which rough diamonds from Sierra Leone are known to transit, and all relevant international and regional organizations to act strictly in accordance with the provisions of this resolution notwithstanding the existence of any rights or obligations conferred or imposed by any international agreement or any contract entered into or any licence or permit granted prior to the date of adoption of this resolution;

10. *Encourages* the International Diamond Manufacturers Association, the World Federation of Diamond Bourses, the Diamond High Council and all other representatives of the diamond industry to work with the Government of Sierra Leone and the Committee to develop methods and working practices to facilitate the effective implementation of this resolution;

11. *Invites* States, international organizations, members of the diamond industry and other relevant entities in a position to do so to offer assistance to the Government of Sierra Leone to contribute to the further development of a well-structured and well-regulated diamond industry that provides for the identification of the provenance of rough diamonds;

12. *Requests* the Committee to hold an exploratory hearing in New York no later than 31 July 2000 to assess the role of diamonds in the Sierra Leone conflict and the link between trade in Sierra Leone diamonds and trade in arms and related *materiél* in violation of resolution 1171 (1998), involving representatives of interested States and regional organizations, the diamond industry and other relevant experts, *requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources, and *further requests* the Committee to report on the hearing to the Council;

13. *Welcomes* the commitments made by certain members of the diamond industry not to trade in diamonds originating from conflict zones, including in Sierra Leone, *urges* all other companies and individuals involved in trading in rough diamonds to make similar declarations in respect of Sierra Leone diamonds, and *underlines* the importance of relevant financial institutions encouraging such companies to do so;

14. *Stresses* the need for the extension of government authority to the diamond-producing areas for a durable solution to the problem of illegal exploitation of diamonds in Sierra Leone;

15. *Decides* to conduct a first review on the measures imposed by paragraph 1 above no later than 15 September 2000, and further such reviews every six months after the date of adoption of the resolution, and to consider at those times what further measures may be necessary;

16. *Urges* all States, relevant United Nations bodies and, as appropriate, other organizations and interested parties to report to the Committee information on possible violations of the measures imposed by paragraph 1 above;

B

Stressing the need to ensure effective implementation of the measures concerning arms and related materiel imposed by paragraph 2 of resolution 1171 (1998),

Stressing the obligation of all Member States, including those neighbouring Sierra Leone, to comply fully with the measures imposed by the Council,

Recalling the ECOWAS Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons in West Africa adopted in Abuja on 31 October 1998 (S/1998/1194, annex),

17. *Reminds* States of their obligation to implement fully the measures imposed by resolution 1171 (1998), and *calls upon* them, where they have not already done so, to enforce, strengthen or enact, as appropriate, legislation making it a criminal offence under domestic law for their nationals or other persons operating on their territory to act in violation of the measures imposed by paragraph 2 of that resolution, and to report to the Committee not later than 31 July 2000 on the implementation of those measures;

18. *Urges* all States, relevant United Nations bodies and, as appropriate, other organizations and interested parties to report to the Committee information on possible violations of the measures imposed by the Council;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee, to establish a panel of experts, for an initial period of four months, consisting of no more than five members:

(a) To collect information on possible violations of the measures imposed by paragraph 2 of resolution 1171 (1998) and the link between trade in diamonds and trade in arms and related materiel including through visits to Sierra Leone and other States as appropriate, and making contact with those they consider appropriate, including diplomatic missions;

(b) To consider the adequacy, for the purpose of detecting flights of aircraft suspected of carrying arms and related materiel across national borders in violation of the measures imposed by paragraph 2 of resolution 1171 (1998), of air traffic control systems in the region;

(c) To participate, if possible, in the hearing referred to in paragraph 12 above;

(d) To report to the Council through the Committee with observations and recommendations on strengthening the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraph 2 of resolution 1171 (1998), and of those imposed by paragraph 1 above, no later than 31 October 2000;

and *further requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources;

20. *Expresses* its readiness, on the basis, *inter alia*, of the report produced pursuant to paragraph 19 (d) above, to consider appropriate action in relation to States that it determines to have violated the measures imposed by paragraph 2 of resolution 1171 (1998) and paragraph 1 above;

21. *Urges* all States to cooperate with the panel in the discharge of its mandate, and *underlines*, in this regard, the importance of the cooperation and technical expertise of the Secretariat and other parts of the United Nations system;

22. *Requests* the Committee to strengthen existing contacts with regional organizations, in particular ECOWAS and the Organization of African Unity, and relevant international organizations, including INTERPOL, with a view to identifying ways to improve effective implementation of the measures imposed by paragraph 2 of resolution 1171 (1998);

23. *Requests* the Committee to make information it considers relevant publicly available through appropriate media, including through the improved use of information technology;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to publicize the provisions of this resolution and the obligations imposed by it;

25. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2000/636

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 29 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to bring to your attention the escalation of terrorism and violence in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, as well as pressure and harassment against the Serbs and other non-Albanians, especially in the areas from which a large number of them have already been expelled. Particularly gruesome instances of atrocities have been the killing of people on the doorstep of their homes or in the field during agricultural work, stealing of livestock and attacks on economic establishments, all of them aimed at forcing the Serbs and other non-Albanians to leave their ancestral homes and Kosovo and Metohija altogether.

The Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) have failed to create minimum security conditions for Serbs and other non-Albanians. Their freedom of movement is extremely limited in such a way they are denied the basic preconditions for the exercise of any other right. Enclaves in which they live, roads within and between them and convoys providing humanitarian aid to the enclaves are increasingly becoming targets of terrorist attacks even though they are supposedly provided security by KFOR and UNMIK. In the past two months, no case of terrorist attack has been solved and no perpetrator apprehended. No instigator or organizer behind those attacks has been discovered, either. Instead, KFOR and UNMIK blockade Serbian and non-Albanian enclaves and disrupt communications between them, arrest Serbs only on false reports of Albanians, often seizing them from hospital beds, and even open fire on frightened and exasperated Serbs protesting their situation.

The symbols of Serbian presence in Kosovo and Metohija, such as Orthodox churches, monasteries and other cultural and religious shrines, are also targets of terrorist attacks. About 100 of them have been looted, burned or destroyed. A glaring example of this modern-day vandalism was the mortar attack on the Decani monastery, the treasure of Serbian religion and culture, on the night of 21/22 June.

Against the background of these atrocities, reports are being submitted on the alleged successes of the United Nations mission in Kosovo and Metohija. It is claimed that the terrorist so-called Kosovo Liberation Army has been demilitarized and disarmed at a time when large caches of heavy weapons, like the one in the village of Klecka, are being discovered or when a fierce mortar attack on the Decani monastery is being carried out. It is also claimed that security is being improved as

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Albanian extremists step up their terrorist activities aimed at completing the ethnic cleansing of the remaining Serbs and non-Albanians. Also, the calls of the leaders of ethnic Albanians for tolerance and coexistence in the circumstances ring very hollow indeed.

The atrocities are taking place at a time when the Security Council is debating and deciding the future of the international presences in Kosovo and Metohija and when measures are being taken to hold local elections despite the absence of the most elementary conditions for such elections. In those conditions and short of a full and consistent implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, the holding of local elections in Kosovo and Metohija is unacceptable for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I wish to recall that, upon instructions of my Government, I have written to the Security Council on a number of occasions to bring to its attention the disastrous situation in Kosovo and Metohija and to request a meeting to consider the situation. Yet I have been denied even a courtesy reply and the Security Council has taken no measure whatsoever to stamp out and reverse the lamentable course of events even though, under the provisions of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and its earlier decisions, it is responsible for the situation in that southern province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia.

In enclosing a short overview of terrorist acts committed by the members of the terrorist so-called Kosovo Liberation Army in Kosovo and Metohija from 24 May to 26 June 2000 (see annex), I kindly request your assistance in having it circulated, along with the present letter, as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the letter dated 29 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Terrorist acts committed by the terrorists of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent republic of Serbia, between 24 May and 26 June 2000

1. Murder of Vladimir Ilic, 50, at his doorstep at Vitina on 24 May.
2. Attack on Serbs in the village of Dobrotin, Municipality of Lipljan, on 26 May, on which occasion four Serbs were gravely wounded.
3. Throwing of a hand grenade on a Serbian cafe at Bresje on 26 May, on which occasion five Serbs were gravely wounded.
4. Setting a fire in the Trepca complex in southern Kosovska Mitrovica on 26 May, which caused enormous material damage.
5. Attack on a group of Serbs in front of a store in the village of Cernica, Municipality of Gnjilane, on 28 May, on which occasion Tihomir Trifunovic, Vojin Vasic and the 5-year-old Milos Petrovic were killed and two other Serbs were gravely wounded.
6. Armed attacks on a local police patrol in the village of Konculj on 23 and 24 May and a mortar attack on the members of local police in the village of Lucane on 30 May.
7. Attack on Serbs in the village of Klokot, Municipality of Vitina, on 31 May, on which occasion Lepterka Marinkovic, 67, was killed and another three Serbs were gravely wounded.
8. Murder of Milutin Trajkovic, 33, in the village of Babin Most, Municipality of Obilic, on 31 May.
9. Murder of Iso Heta, a retired member of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia, end of May.
10. Throwing of a hand grenade on the house of Djordje Velickovic at Obilic on 1 June, on which occasion Misko Todorovic was gravely wounded.
11. Killing of two Serbs, Sinisa Dimic and Vlastimir Milic, and wounding of three other Serbs, two of them under-age children, in an automobile which ran over an anti-tank mine planted by Albanian terrorists the night before on the road between the Serbian villages of Ugljari and Preoce near Pristina on 2 June.
12. Burning of a number of Serbian houses in Prizren and Decani on 3 June.
13. Continued arbitrary arrests of Serbs by KFOR and UNMIK, of which one of the most drastic examples was the arrest, at Gracanica on 7 June, of Nebojsa Stojanovic, 30, who was apprehended while in an intensive care unit following a serious injury sustained after KFOR opened automatic fire at Serbs protesting the terror of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army.

14. Brutal attack and wounding of Jovan Cerovic, 55, by 10 terrorists with clubs at Obilic on 8 June.

15. Burning of a number of Serbian houses at Obilic on 9 June.

16. Abduction of Safet Pucurica, 37, from Kosovska Mitrovica, on the Vucitrn-Kosovska Mitrovica road on 10 June.

17. Armed attack on an automobile driven by four Goranci near Orcus, Municipality of Gora, on 9 June, on which occasion one of them was wounded.

18. Burning of Serbian houses at Obilic and the dynamiting of Roma houses in the village of Novo Rujce, Municipality of Lipljan, on 10 June.

19. Setting a fire in the Serbian restaurant "Lotos" on 10 June.

20. Mortar attack on Serbian houses at Orahovac on 12 and 13 June.

21. Mortar attack on Serbian houses at Oblic on 14 June.

22. Abduction of a 14-year-old girl in Pristina on 14 June.

23. Killing of Zlatibor Denic and Borko Filipovic and the wounding of Dejan Filipovic, who lost both his arms and legs, in an automobile which ran over an anti-tank mine planted by the terrorists of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army on the road between the villages of Preoce and Lepina on 15 June.

24. Attacks on humanitarian convoys headed towards Strpce in the villages of Radivojce and Pozarane on 30 May and 16 June.

25. Mortar attack on the Decani monastery near Pec, built in 1335, which is one of the treasures of Serbian cultural heritage, housing frescoes of great value and a large number of manuscripts and icons, on the night of 21/22 June.

26. Throwing of a hand grenade on the house of Toma Ivkovic in Gnjilane on 21 June, on which occasion Mr. Ivkovic's mother was wounded.

27. Brutal abduction of Vlada, 80, and Persa, 50, Miletic in the village of Mali Trnovac, Municipality of Bujanovac, on 21 June. Their fate is unknown.

28. Abduction of Bozidar Markovic, 60, in the village of Susice, Municipality of Strpci, on 23 June.

29. Abduction of 14-year-old Jovica Milic in the village of Susice, Municipality of Strpce, on 24 June, while tending his herd. He managed to escape, sustaining serious injuries and psychological stress.

30. Mortar attack on Serbian houses in the village of Velika Hoca, Municipality of Orahovac, on 24 June.

31. Abduction of Tomislav Markovic on the Podujevo-Pristina road on 24 June.

32. Murder of Kica Milanovic, 50, on his doorstep at Kosovo Polje on 25 June.

33. Attempt to abduct Milorad Soric in front of his house in Orahovac on 26 June, on which occasion he was seriously injured.

United Nations A/54/930–S/2000/637

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda items 43, 44 and 89

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Identical letters dated 29 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

In follow-up to our letter of 19 June 2000 (A/54/924-S/2000/600), regarding recent and ongoing Israeli threats of force against the Palestinian people, I have been instructed to bring to your attention reports of unusual military movements and preparations being carried out by the Israeli forces in the occupied Gaza Strip. Such preparations are clearly related to the verbal threats of force that have been made by Israeli officials in recent weeks, as they involve the obvious fortification of Israeli military posts in the area.

While serious efforts are being exerted to break the stalemate in the peace process towards a negotiated settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Israeli efforts instead appear to be highly focused on military preparations and activities. Israeli troops have been sighted on the coast of the Gaza Strip carrying out amphibious landing exercises and manoeuvres with the support of military helicopters. Moreover, there have been reports of the movement and redistribution of both light and heavy equipment and weaponry around the illegal Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip as well as additional fortification around those settlements. In addition, Israeli personnel have been sighted installing camera equipment for obvious monitoring purposes in the area.

These activities come in the wake of the threats made by Israeli officials, including military and political officials, which were referred to in the above-mentioned letter. Similar to verbal threats of force against the Palestinian people, these kinds of unusual and intense military preparations and manoeuvres serve only

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to heighten tensions between the two sides. Moreover, these actions negatively affect the peace process and make increasingly difficult the negotiations between the two sides.

I wish to reiterate that while the Palestinian side remains committed to the peace process, the Palestinian leadership cannot ignore this Israeli mobilization of force in the occupied territory. The international community should be aware of such military preparations and mobilization and, in this regard, should exert efforts to ensure stability in the area and to promote adherence to international law and norms by Israel, the occupying Power, towards a just and peaceful settlement between the two sides.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 43, 44 and 89, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda Abdelhady **Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/54/931–S/2000/638

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
29 June 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 43
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 29 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 24 May 2000 Israel withdrew its forces from Southern Lebanon, in full accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978). The withdrawal was confirmed by the Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council dated 16 June 2000 (S/2000/590 and Corr.1). The Security Council, in turn, welcomed the report and endorsed its conclusion, in the Council's Presidential statement dated 18 June 2000 (S/PRST/2000/21). As is widely known, Security Council resolution 425 (1978), in addition to calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces, also calls for the restoration of international peace and security and the return of the effective authority of the Government of Lebanon in the area.

Regrettably, the Government of Lebanon has, to date, refused to fulfil its responsibilities under resolution 425 (1978) and to establish its effective authority in the area. As a result, the area is witnessing an escalating wave of violence on the Lebanese side of the border, directed against Israel. Objects hurled over the border at passing Israelis, including farmers working in their fields, attempts to penetrate into Israel, along with a host of other targeted provocations have become commonplace along the southern border of Lebanon. The Government of Lebanon has made no attempt to prevent or control such incidents. Indeed, the Lebanese army has not even taken up positions in the area. For that matter, Lebanon has yet to disarm the militia groups operating in its territory.

This regrettable situation came to a climax on 24 June 2000, when dozens of demonstrators gathered beside the "Fatma gate", on the Lebanese side of the international border between Israel and Lebanon, close to the Israeli town of Metulah. The demonstration turned violent as heavy stones and objects were hurled over the border, aimed at Israelis on the other side. In addition, there were repeated attempts to climb over the fence and illegally infiltrate into the Israeli side of the border.

Two individuals from the Lebanese side actually penetrated into Israel. When they pressed further despite repeated warnings, Israeli soldiers were faced with no alternative but to use force to stop them. Clearly, this incident would never have

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occurred had the two not illegally infiltrated into Israeli territory, and proceeded against IDF warnings.

In refusing to fulfil its obligations pursuant to resolution 425 (1978), Lebanon is thereby failing in its basic international duty, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations, to ensure that its sovereign territory does not serve to harm the territory of a neighbouring State.

Now that Israel has withdrawn its forces, it remains for the other parties, chiefly the Government of Lebanon, to fulfil their remaining responsibilities under resolution 425 (1978). The Government of Lebanon is required to take all necessary steps to prevent the continued flare-ups, infiltrations and provocations, and to assume full responsibility over Lebanon. That includes doing everything in its power to end acts of hostility against Israel and Israelis across the border.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aaron **Jacob**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

United Nations S/2000/639

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 June 2000

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and on the activities of the United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in that country

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in response to the statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2000/5) of 10 February 2000, in which the Council requested me to keep it regularly informed of the activities of the United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA), the situation in the Central African Republic and, in particular, the progress achieved in political, social and economic reforms, and to submit a report to the Council by 30 June 2000 and every six months thereafter.

2. As members of the Security Council will recall, the primary mission of BONUCA, established for an initial period of one year, is to support the Government's efforts to consolidate peace and national reconciliation, strengthen democratic institutions, and facilitate the mobilization of international political support and resources for national reconstruction and economic recovery. In addition, the Office is expected to promote public awareness of human rights issues and monitor developments in this field. BONUCA, which started its operations on 16 February 2000, is headed by my Representative, Mr. Cheikh Tidiane Sy, whose appointment the Council approved on 1 May.

II. Political situation

3. Since I last reported to the Security Council on the situation in the Central African Republic, political developments in the country have been dominated by the challenge to the Government of Prime Minister Anicet Georges Dologuélé. The ruling Movement for the Liberation of the Central African People (MLPC) expressed its dissatisfaction to President Patassé at the distribution of cabinet posts and particularly objected to the selection of Mr. Dologuélé as Prime Minister. The party wanted more posts to be assigned to leading party members, including parliamentarians. The Government was also caught in the web of major financial scandals. The political situation appears to have improved with the recent nomination of additional MLPC members to the Cabinet and the launching of a major government investigation into the financial scandals.

4. The suspended jail sentences and financial penalties imposed upon two journalists accused of calumny against the Head of State and of incitation to hatred have tarnished the image of the Government. The verdict revived tensions between the Government and the opposition, of which the two journalists are sympathizers. The opposition denounced the trial as an attempt by the Government to silence independent voices.

5. During my official visit to the Central African Republic from 30 April to 1 May, I had a series of useful discussions with President Patassé, Prime Minister Dologuélé and members of his Government as well as with members of the Bureau of the National Assembly. We discussed issues related to national reconciliation and the consolidation of peace in the country; good governance; the preservation and promotion of democratic institutions; the need to press on with reforms to render them sustainable and

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irreversible; and the organization of the Special Donors Meeting of 15 and 16 May in New York, convened specifically to help raise funds for the restructuring of the armed forces within the framework of an integrated approach to security and development.

6. President Patassé expressed deep gratitude for the interest shown by the international community in assisting his country since the 1996-1997 mutinies, and assured me of the determination of his Government to press on with the reforms and other efforts in pursuit of long-term stability and progress.

7. The implementation of the Bangui Agreements and the National Reconciliation Pact (S/1998/219, annex) two pillars of the ongoing process of restoring and consolidating national unity and sustainable peace and stability, was facilitated in several key ways during the period under review. Two ex-mutineers were rehabilitated and recently appointed to key government positions. The revision of the Electoral Code was completed. The Electoral Independent and Mixed Commission (CEMI), which had successfully managed the presidential elections in September 1999, was also strengthened with a control organ to further assure its transparency and credibility.

8. Meanwhile, the Government has institutionalized the payment of pension allowances to former Heads of State, as provided under the Bangui Agreements. Consequently, ex-Presidents Dacko and Kolingba became eligible, while the case of Mr. Abel Goumba, who asked to be similarly treated because he had been interim President for two months after the death of President Barthélémy Boganda, the nation's first Head of State, was rejected.

9. Furthermore, in efforts to consolidate national reconciliation, it was agreed that a general amnesty would be granted to people who had been identified by a parliamentary audit as having embezzled public funds and who were recommended for appropriate sanctions.

III. Human rights situation

10. A disquieting development since my last report has been the alarming increase in reports of extrajudicial killings and summary executions. In the month of May alone, a special anti-crime police squad (OCRB) reportedly executed eight alleged armed robbery suspects without due process. The impunity apparently enjoyed by the perpetrators of these serious human rights violations continues to be a cause of grave concern.

11. An accelerated rehabilitation of local prisons and rejuvenation of a credible judicial system to permit secure detention of criminals awaiting arraignment before the courts could help eliminate the unacceptable recourse to summary executions and arbitrary detentions. In the meantime, my Representative will continue to stress to the authorities the importance of upholding the rights of every citizen, including those accused of crimes.

12. A short-term intensive training session, co-sponsored by BONUCA and the Ministry of Defence, was organized from 3 to 19 May in Bangui for 50 police officers, 50 gendarmes and 50 officers from the Central African armed forces (FACA), to acquaint them with ways to uphold the human rights edicts applicable in the country. The themes covered by the seminar included the role of police in the protection and promotion of human rights; international humanitarian law; the Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees; and the role and activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Similar courses are planned in the near future in the countryside.

13. Additionally, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Disabled Persons, a national workshop with 80 participants was organized on 26 and 27 May on the fifth anniversary of the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women, prior to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", held in New York in June.

14. With support from BONUCA, the authorities have also undertaken to publicize human rights themes in the national media for the benefit of the greater population, through radio broadcasts and articles in various publications in Sango, the country's lingua franca.

IV. Military and security situation

15. The military and security situation in the Central African Republic has remained relatively calm since the smooth transfer by the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA), shortly before its departure, of its security functions to the

police and security agencies of the Central African Republic.

16. As part of the ongoing reforms in the security sector, the Special Force for the Defence of the Republican Institutions (FORSDIR) was dissolved in February 2000 and replaced by a Special Unit in charge of Presidential Security (UPS), under the authority of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. However, because of the lack of adequate resources for the police and the gendarmerie to enable them to ensure public order, and in spite of the training programmes initiated and supported by BONUCA for these two bodies, UPS is being called upon to undertake law and order-related tasks that, under normal circumstances, would fall outside the scope of its mandate.

17. An increasingly dangerous situation is being caused by the relentless attacks by armed bandits, which disrupt the safe movement of people and goods, not only within the country but also along roads connecting the Central African Republic with its neighbours. Scores of innocent people have been killed by these bandits.

V. Economic situation

18. The overall economic performance of the Central African Republic has been particularly encouraging in the period under review. Improvements appear to have taken place in the critical area of revenue generation, which so far shows an increase of almost 20 per cent between last year and this year. This can be attributed to the fiscal reforms put into place in this area by the Government.

19. Another joint International Monetary Fund (IMF)/World Bank mission visited the Central African Republic in February/March 2000 to assess the country's overall economic performance in light of the commitments made to the Bretton Woods institutions since their last visit in November 1999. Meanwhile, in accordance with the understandings reached with those institutions on the management of the economy, regular salaries have been paid to civil servants without interruption since March 1999. This action facilitated the release of the second Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF).

20. At the same time, however, there is a need for the Government's expenditures to be brought under tighter control if the country is to reach its goal of sustainable growth. The National Assembly adopted in February a budget showing a deficit of 22 billion CFA francs. In spite of the fact that revenue receipts are increasing, the deficit is growing at an even higher rate.

21. The Government, especially following recent financial scandals in State corporations, including in the energy and transportation sectors, stressed its commitment and determination to fight corruption and mismanagement, which should result in increased revenue for the State. In this connection, it is expected that progress on the privatization of remaining State enterprises will enhance their performance and efficiency and thus help increase revenue for the country.

22. However, the economy is currently facing new difficulties which were not even envisaged earlier in the year. The prevailing severe fuel shortage is rapidly becoming a major national crisis. The crisis stems from a disruption of supply to the Central African Republic from its traditional suppliers in the port of Matadi, across the Congo River, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the time of this report, alternative fuel routes are being utilized, but at prohibitive costs, thus placing a heavy burden on the fragile economic upturn. There are signs that the fuel crisis may be alleviated in the short term, but a longer-term solution is needed to restore normalcy and to prevent the crippling of the economy.

VI. Special Donors Meeting

23. Members of the Security Council will recall that in paragraph 5 of resolution 1271 (1999), the Council welcomed my proposal to convene in New York a meeting to mobilize the necessary funds for the implementation of the restructuring of FACA and reintegration of demobilized soldiers. The Government, burdened by its heavy external debt and against a background of a weak and fragile economy, will continue to need substantial assistance if it is to carry out the full restructuring of the armed forces while providing essential social services to the population.

24. The meeting in question was organized on 15 and 16 May in New York. It was co-sponsored by the United Nations system and the Government of Germany, in close collaboration with the Bretton Woods institutions. More than 66 delegations from 48 countries and institutions were present. In addition to

addressing the assistance required to implement the security-related reforms, the meeting provided an opportunity to evaluate the Central African Republic's economic performance and the Government's strategy for responding to the challenges posed by the problems of governance and poverty alleviation. Prime Minister Dologuélé led his country's delegation, which also included the Finance and Defence Ministers.

25. In response to the request for assistance made by the Central African Republic authorities, donor countries (namely, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy and Norway) made substantial pledges at the meeting, amounting to over US$ 38 million. Although they fall short of the US$ 54 million expected by the Government of the Central African Republic for its security and development programmes, these pledges nevertheless represent an important step in the right direction and reflect, above all, the international community's commitment to continue to support the country's stabilization process.

VII. Observations

26. The transition from MINURCA to BONUCA was accomplished successfully. My new Representative and Head of BONUCA, Mr. Cheikh Tidiane Sy, has since assumed duty in Bangui. I am confident that President Patassé and his Government remain fully committed to proceeding with the reforms necessary to consolidate the progress made towards the restoration of stability and the promotion of sustainable peace and development.

27. The Government and people of the Central African Republic have expressed profound appreciation for the support that the country received from the international community during the Special Donors Meeting in New York. They hold high hopes that this support can now be translated into concrete action to help meet their most critical needs, including the ongoing National Programme for Demobilization and Reintegration. Given the country's present economic difficulties, I appeal to the donor community to make every effort to assure an early fulfilment of the pledges made during the meeting so that the security and development projects can soon commence.

28. Because of the conflicts and tensions in the subregion, security will remain a matter of concern in the Central African Republic. Having done so much at considerable cost during the MINURCA era to bring about peace, the international community should remain engaged in this country and take the extra steps needed to complete the task of consolidating peace and stability in the country. In practical terms, this means strengthening the national capacity of the Central African Republic to provide for its own security in the newly restored democratic order.

29. Meanwhile, BONUCA, and the entire United Nations country team in Bangui, will continue to work with the Central African Republic authorities in the implementation of the ongoing reforms, particularly in the security field and in the management of the economy with a view to achieving sustainable peace and development.

United Nations S/2000/640

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 June 2000

Original: English

Report by the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the Alternate Representative of Bangladesh on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 20 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, stating that Mr. Mosud Mannan has been appointed alternate representative of Bangladesh on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that communication constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

00-51231 (E) 300600

United Nations S/2000/641

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 June 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 29 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to re-forward the attached Government Memorandum on the Role of Diamonds in the Conflict in Sierra Leone, and the Establishment of a Certificate of Origin Regime for the Export of Rough Diamonds from Sierra Leone.

I should be grateful if the said Memorandum could be issued as a document of the Security Council

(*Signed*) Ibrahim M. **Kamara**
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

00-51245 (E) 300600

Annex to the letter dated 29 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Sierra Leone Government

Office of the President

28 June 2000

Memorandum on the role of diamonds in the conflict in Sierra Leone and the establishment of a Certificate of Origin regime for the export of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone

The Government wishes to confirm that its Certificate of Origin scheme will be forwarded to the United Nations Sanctions Committee. The Government understands that the Committee would then assess its effectiveness and report to the Security Council thereon. The Government does not anticipate that approval will be sought from the Committee before the Government issues any certificate once the Committee has reviewed the form of the Certificate.

The Government concurs with the idea that the export of diamonds from Sierra Leone would be temporarily prohibited until such time that a Certificate of Origin scheme is in full operation. This concurrence is based on the clear understanding that the temporary prohibition and the process of assessment by the Sanctions Committee and endorsement by the Security Council would not be prolonged.

Furthermore, it is the view of the Government of Sierra Leone that the illicit export of Sierra Leone diamonds, especially through Liberia, is a major cause of the conflict in Sierra Leone, and constitutes the most formidable impediment to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

(*Signed*) James B. **Allie**
Secretary to the President

United Nations S/2000/642

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a Joint Communiqué by the Foreign Ministers of Croatia and Montenegro on the issue of Prevlaka (see annex).

I should like to request your kind assistance in distributing this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ivan **Šimonović**
Permanent Representative

00-51313 (E) 300600

Annex to the letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Communiqué by Tonino Picula and Branko Lukovac, the Foreign Ministers of Croatia and Montenegro, on 30 June 2000

On 24 June 2000, Presidents Stjepan Mesić and Milo Đukanović met in Cavtat, Croatia. They agreed that the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro share concerns regarding the remaining threats to international peace and security in the region as well as common ambitions in overcoming them. To this extent, the two presidents pledged the respective commitments of Croatia and Montenegro to continue to cooperate closely in pursuit of lasting peace and good-neighbourly relations. Pursuant to these commitments, we address the issue of Prevlaka on the eve of the upcoming report of the United Nations Secretary-General and possible deliberations of the Security Council under the item "Situation in Croatia".

The Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro continue to support the full demilitarization on both sides of the border in the area of Prevlaka and believe that it has contributed and will further contribute to reducing tensions and stabilizing the entire area. The opening and operation of the border crossings Debeli Brijeg and Konfin in the Prevlaka range has resulted in demonstrable confidence-building among the local population from both sides of the border and provided an impetus for the renewed commercial and other ties between Croatia and Montenegro. Complete demining and unhindered civilian access throughout the entire Prevlaka range and the opportunity to use the natural resources would further strengthen stability and confidence among the local population, restart the tourist economy, and thus constitute another important step towards full normalization of relations.

Croatia and Montenegro consider that UNMOP has been successful in implementing their observer mandate and thus contributing to the demilitarization process. In the light of the above, the two sides remain confident that substantial reduction of UNMOP personnel shall be able to start in the nearest possible future, consistent with the increased development of mutual trust between Croatia and Montenegro and the willingness to take upon themselves responsibility for the security of the area.

Greatly valuing the efforts of the Security Council, we hope that its member States will fully recognize and give support to the endeavours of Croatia and Montenegro directed towards lasting stability. Furthermore, we look forward to the Council's continued commitment in overcoming the other, remaining security problems in the broader area.

United Nations S/2000/643

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2000

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea

I. Introduction

1. In my report dated 2 June 2000 (S/2000/530), I informed the Security Council that the proximity talks between Ethiopia and Eritrea, conducted under the chairmanship of the Minister of Justice of Algeria and the Personal Envoy of the Current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Ahmed Ouyahia, had resumed in Algiers on 29 May. I am now pleased to report that those talks have culminated in the signing, on 18 June 2000, of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea by the Foreign Ministers of both countries, under the auspices of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria, in his capacity as the Current Chairman of OAU. The talks were conducted with the assistance of the Personal Envoy of the Presidency of the European Union, Rino Serri, and the representative of the President of the United States, Anthony Lake.

II. Provisions of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities

2. Under the Agreement, which was circulated on 19 June 2000 as a document of the Security Council (S/2000/601), the parties have committed themselves to:

(a) Resolving the present crisis and any other dispute between them through peaceful and legal means in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charters of OAU and the United Nations;

(b) Rejecting the use of force as a means of imposing solutions to disputes;

(c) Respecting the borders existing at independence, as stated in OAU resolution AHG/Res 16 (1), adopted in Cairo in 1964, and in this regard determining them on the basis of pertinent colonial treaties and applicable international law, making use, to that end, of technical means to demarcate the borders and, in case of controversy, to resort to the appropriate means of arbitration.

3. The Agreement commits the parties to an immediate cessation of hostilities and stipulates that, starting from the signature of the Agreement, all air and land attacks are to cease. The parties have also reaffirmed their acceptance of the OAU Framework Agreement and the modalities for its implementation.

4. Under the Agreement, the parties called upon the United Nations, in cooperation with OAU, to establish a peacekeeping operation to assist in the implementation of the Agreement and guaranteed to ensure free movement and access for the peacekeeping mission and its supplies, as required, through their territories and to respect its members, installations and equipment.

5. Under the Agreement, Ethiopia shall submit to the peacekeeping mission redeployment plans for its troops from positions taken after 6 February 1999 which were not under Ethiopian administration before 6 May 1998. This redeployment is to take place within two weeks after the deployment of the peacekeeping mission and is to be verified by it. For its part, Eritrea is to maintain its forces at a distance of 25 kilometres (artillery range) from positions to which the Ethiopian forces are to redeploy. This zone of separation is to be referred to as the "temporary security zone".

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6. The Agreement also calls for the United Nations and OAU to establish a Military Coordination Commission, to be composed of representatives of both parties under the chairmanship of the head of the peacekeeping mission. The tasks of the Commission would be to coordinate and resolve issues relating to the implementation of the mandate of the mission, in particular, military issues arising during the implementation period.

7. In particular, the Agreement calls upon the United Nations peacekeeping operation to carry out the following tasks:

(a) Monitor the cessation of hostilities;

(b) Monitor the redeployment of Ethiopian forces;

(c) Ensure the observance of the security commitments agreed to by the two parties (described in para. 5 above);

(d) Monitor the temporary security zone.

8. The Agreement also calls upon the Security Council to adopt "appropriate measures" under chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations should one or both parties violate their respective commitments. Other provisions of the Agreement concern demining activities to be conducted as soon as possible by both parties with the technical assistance of the United Nations, with a view to creating conditions necessary to the deployment of the peacekeeping mission and the return of civilian administration and of the population.

9. In accordance with the Agreement, the mandate of the peacekeeping operation would terminate when the delimitation/demarcation process has been completed.

III. Observations and recommendations

10. The Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, negotiated under the auspices of OAU and signed by the two parties at Algiers on 18 June 2000, is the first but extremely vital step towards the restoration of peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea. I welcome this long-awaited Agreement, and I am gratified that the parties have found a means of halting the devastating fighting that has resulted in the loss of numerous lives and immense destruction.

11. The protracted conflict has compounded the already devastating effects of the drought in the two countries. It is estimated that in Ethiopia and Eritrea, the war displaced at least 1.2 million people, 70 per cent of whom are women, children and the elderly. Many of the internally displaced persons live in extremely difficult conditions without shelter, proper sanitation or regular access to food and water. Many thousands more have had to seek refuge across the Sudanese border. An estimated 10 million Ethiopians and Eritreans have been affected by the lack of rain for three consecutive years. Landmines further compound the situation in a number of war-affected areas, in particular, the Tigray region in Ethiopia and the area surrounding Barentu town in Eritrea. It is essential that the donor community respond generously to the humanitarian appeal for the Horn of Africa launched by the United Nations on 7 June 2000.

12. I hope that the envisaged second phase of the proximity talks, to be held shortly under the auspices of OAU, will succeed in assisting the parties in arriving at a lasting, peaceful resolution to the outstanding issues, including the delimitation and demarcation of the border. I urge the two parties to cooperate fully with OAU in these efforts.

13. Meanwhile, in accordance with the Agreement, the Government of Eritrea has addressed to me a letter dated 20 June 2000 (S/2000/612), requesting that the United Nations take the measures necessary to assist the parties in the implementation of the cessation of hostilities. In a letter dated 26 June 2000 (S/2000/627), the Government of Ethiopia has addressed a similar request to the United Nations.

14. In order to facilitate the earliest implementation of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, I intend to dispatch very shortly a reconnaissance mission to the region to discuss with OAU and the parties the modalities of possible United Nations assistance for its implementation. On the basis of its findings, the mission will make recommendations to me concerning a concept of operations for a United Nations peacekeeping mission. I intend to consult OAU and the parties on the recommendations and thereafter to present my proposals in this regard to the Security Council in late July 2000.

15. I also intend to dispatch, simultaneously with the reconnaissance mission, an appropriate number of liaison officers to each capital. These officers would

liaise with the parties and OAU and assist in the planning for a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

16. Subject to the authorization of the Security Council and the concurrence of the parties, the liaison officers would be followed within the next few weeks by the deployment of a military observer group. It is envisaged that up to a total of 100 United Nations military observers would gradually be deployed to each country over the next two months, pending the establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation. The United Nations military observer group would work closely with the military observers to be deployed by OAU, who would maintain a separate identity and chain of command. The tasks of the United Nations and OAU observer groups would be to liaise with the parties; visit their military headquarters in Addis Ababa, Asmara and in the field; verify any major violations of the ceasefire; prepare for the establishment of the Military Coordination Committee provided for in the Agreement; and assist in the planning of the full-fledged operation and in the establishment of an advance headquarters for it. A number of the observers would also be co-located with the military headquarters of the parties at the division/regiment level.

17. To expedite their deployment, some of the United Nations military observers would be drawn from existing United Nations peacekeeping missions. The United Nations military observer group would be led by a senior military officer and would include civilian staff as necessary, including political, logistic and other personnel. It is expected that the two parties would provide the United Nations and OAU military observer groups with the required assistance, support and protection in the performance of their duties.

18. The financial implications for the steps described above will be provided to the Security Council shortly.

19. I take this opportunity to once again pay tribute to the efforts of OAU, and particularly those of its Current Chairman, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria, which resulted in the attainment of the much-awaited cessation of hostilities. I also wish the parties and OAU every success in the speedy conclusion of the proximity talks and will keep the Security Council apprised of developments in this regard. As requested in paragraph 15 of its resolution 1298 (2000) of 17 May 2000, I intend to submit shortly a comprehensive report on the implementation of that resolution and on the humanitarian situation in Eritrea and Ethiopia.

United Nations A/54/932–S/2000/644

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda items 43, 44 and 89

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Letter dated 30 June from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions, I wish urgently to call your attention to a recent statement by the Israeli Attorney General, Mr. Eliyakim Rubinstein, regarding the applicability of Security Council resolution 242 (1967).

In a legal opinion issued on 29 June 2000, the Israeli Attorney General stated that United Nations resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Israel from occupied territories — namely, Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) — are not applicable to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. Other Israeli officials have expressed similar positions in this regard.

The Palestinian side maintains that such positions represent a gross violation of international law and the principle of inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war, which is one of the basic tenets of resolution 242 (1967). In addition, I wish to highlight article I of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, which was signed by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization on 13 September 1993 in Washington, D.C. Article I clearly defines the "Aim of the negotiations" between the two sides in the peace process as follows:

> "The aim of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations within the current Middle East peace process is, among other things, to establish a Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority, the elected Council (the "Council"), for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, for a transitional period not exceeding five years, leading to a permanent settlement based on Security

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Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). It is understood that the interim arrangements are an integral part of the whole peace process and that the negotiations on the permanent status will lead to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973)."

This specific aim and principle was repeatedly reaffirmed in subsequent agreements reached by the two sides. Accordingly, the recently declared Israeli position represents a complete departure from the very principles upon which the peace process was established. Such a position clearly constitutes a gross violation of the agreements reached and a serious threat to the integrity and continuity of this peace process.

We hold the Israeli side totally responsible for the destructive impact that such dramatic positions could have on the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, and we demand full compliance by Israel with international law and the agreements reached, particularly the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under items 43, 44 and 89, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda Abdelhady **Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2000/645

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2000
English
Original: English/French

Letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

It may be recalled that in my latest report to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1281 (1999), I had drawn the Council's attention to additional measures to achieve greater utilization of available resources, in particular with regard to funds in excess of requirements for payments of all contracts approved under earlier phases to fund humanitarian supplies to Iraq, under subsequent phases (S/2000/520, para. 108).

Although phases I and II of the humanitarian programme are closed, $5.1 million and $2 million, respectively, remain available for the purchase of humanitarian supplies. These funds could address notably phases IV and V, for which there is still a revenue shortfall for humanitarian supplies of $0.5 billion.

The reasons for the availability of the above funds are as follows: Firstly, food grain contracts have a plus-or-minus 5 per cent tolerance built into the quantity and dollar value of the goods. Secondly, allowance is made for foreign currency-denominated contracts since the market rate will not be known until the date of payment. And, thirdly, compensations due to penalties imposed with respect to shipping delays or other non-fulfilments are credited to the United Nations Iraq account. With the increased availability of revenues and the much larger number of contracts under subsequent phases, it is anticipated that substantial funds would become available after the closure of these phases, for the above reasons.

Accordingly, I would appreciate your informing me whether in the light of the recommendation contained in my latest report the Council would consider authorizing the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) to review and approve requests by the Office of the Iraq Programme for the use of funds in excess of requirements in earlier phases to fund humanitarian supplies under subsequent phases.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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United Nations S/2000/646

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 July 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 29 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 28 June 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the fact that the United Nations Compensation Commission has notified Iraq of claims for compensation submitted by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and has done so without providing the documentation that would allow Iraq to examine the claims, express its views in their regard and protect its rights. He urges you to intervene with a view to having the Commission follow the proper legal procedures established by international law.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 29 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Government of Iraq has received from the United Nations Compensation Commission eight procedural orders dated 2 December 1999 relating to claims for compensation submitted by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on behalf of eight of its ministries. The procedural orders give the panel of commissioners a 12-month period in which to submit its report and recommendations on the claim to the Commission's Governing Council. It is to be noted that the procedural orders contain no information or details concerning the nature of the claims, either in terms of any legal and material evidence as to what caused the damage, or in terms of the type and nature of the damage caused or the time at which it occurred, or in terms of the amount of compensation claimed.

The fact that the Government of Iraq was not provided with the documentation relating to the claims in question but was merely furnished with copies of the procedural orders issued by the panel of commissioners prompts us to reiterate the substance of our previous letters, particularly those of 2 February 1999 (S/1999/113, annex), 11 May 1999 (S/1999/570, annex) and 11 December 1999 (S/1999/1243, annex), in which the Government of Iraq asked to be provided with full information relating to claims and not merely summary information that allows no opportunity for a full legal response to be submitted in their regard. This also gives the Government of Iraq reservations with respect to any decision to be made to compensate the said ministries as long as it is not provided with detailed information on the claims and given the right to state its views on the matter to the panels of commissioners and to the Governing Council in order to defend its rights and the assets of its people.

Allow me, in this connection, to refer to paragraph 3 of article 35 of the "Provisional Rules for Claims Procedure" (S/24363, annex I, enclosure), which states that "such claims" (namely "claims of corporations and other entities and claims of governments and international organizations") "must be supported by documentary and other appropriate evidence sufficient to demonstrate the circumstances and amount of the claimed loss". We therefore reaffirm our right to know the reason Iraq's requests are ignored and such documentation is deliberately withheld from the Government of Iraq.

In raising this matter, the Government of Iraq invokes its inalienable right to be fully informed of issues and claims that concern Iraq in its capacity as the respondent State as well as its right to know the contents of the documents submitted by claimants so that it may be able to respond to them. You perhaps share our view that withholding such information from Iraq opens the way for claimants to say whatever they wish in order to obtain the sums they are claiming.

The Government of Iraq has endeavoured to state its position and to reveal the unfair, unlawful and unprecedented methods adopted by the Commission in its dealings with Iraq, methods that prevent it from being apprised of even the most basic information that would enable it to comment on a claim, form a view thereon and submit any observations it has to make in its regard.

In view of the fact that we have received no replies over the past years, we appeal to you once more, in accordance with your legal responsibilities, to intervene

in this matter in order to have the Commission follow the proper legal procedures established by international law and judicial precedent so as to protect the assets of the Iraqi people from unwarranted dissipation and waste.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

United Nations S/2000/647

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 July 2000

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in the context of Security Council resolution 1285 (2000) of 13 January 2000 by which the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) until 15 July 2000. As requested by the Council, I submitted a report on UNMOP on 11 April 2000 (S/2000/305); the present report covers developments since that date.

2. The strength of the Mission remains unchanged, consisting of 27 United Nations military observers (see annex) headed by a Chief Military Observer, Colonel Graeme Williams (New Zealand).

3. UNMOP continues to fulfil its mandate by monitoring the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula and of the neighbouring areas in Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Except when restrictions of movement are imposed by either party, it conducts vehicle, foot and standing patrols. The Mission continues to hold regular meetings with the local authorities in order to strengthen liaison, reduce tension, improve safety and security and promote confidence between the parties. The Chief Military Observer also continues to maintain contact with the authorities in Zagreb and Belgrade in order to address issues arising from the implementation of resolution 1285 (2000). Cooperation between UNMOP and the multinational Stabilization Force (SFOR) is maintained through regular meetings.

II. Situation in the area of responsibility of the Mission

4. Since the submission of my last report on 11 April (S/2000/305), the overall situation in the UNMOP area of responsibility has remained stable and calm.

5. The area of responsibility of UNMOP and the designation of the demilitarized and United Nations-controlled zones remain as previously reported. UNMOP continues to maintain its 24-hour presence at the team site on the Ostra peninsula, at Herceg Novi in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Montenegro) and at the headquarters at Cavtat and the team site at Gruda in Croatia. The Mission has continued to protest about violations of both the demilitarized zone and the United Nations-controlled zone to the authorities in Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including the Republic of Montenegro, in order to encourage greater respect for the security regime governing the zones.

6. During the reporting period, neither Croatia nor the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia put in place a comprehensive demining programme in the UNMOP area of responsibility. As a result, the situation of identified minefields in the area remains unchanged.

Demilitarized zone

7. The demilitarized zone remains calm and stable. In accordance with the security regime, police forces of the parties maintain control of the zone; these are, on the Croatian side, the Special Police and, on the

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Yugoslav side, the Montenegrin Border Police and Special Police.

8. During the reporting period, a significant increase in the number of Montenegrin Special Police was observed in the demilitarized zone, which does not constitute a violation of the United Nations security regime.

9. In June 2000, a Yugoslav Army truck armed with a machine gun and carrying approximately 20 soldiers was observed within the demilitarized zone. UNMOP has protested about this violation to the Yugoslav authorities, who have assured UNMOP that there would be no further such violations.

10. As previously reported, the United Nations military observers continue to enjoy unrestricted freedom of movement on the Yugoslav side of the demilitarized zone. On the Croatian side, the authorities continue to require UNMOP to provide advance written notice before undertaking foot or vehicle patrols in the northern part of the zone.

11. The crossing point at Debeli Brijeg remains open on a 24-hour basis, allowing the movement of increasing civilian and commercial traffic between Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Montenegro).

United Nations-controlled zone

12. The long-standing violations of the security regime in the United Nations-controlled zone remain unchanged. Approximately 25 Croatian Special Police are located at four positions and approximately 10 Yugoslav (Montenegrin) Border Police are present at two positions inside that zone. The Croatian Special Police conduct patrols throughout the part of the zone accessible to them.

13. Both Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Montenegro) maintain manned positions for the purpose of operating the Cape Kobila crossing point. These checkpoints, which are staffed on a 24-hour basis, permit the passage of civilians between Croatia and Montenegro during specified hours (currently four hours per day). UNMOP observers continue to report that the number of persons passing through the Cape Kobila checkpoints remains negligible in comparison with the number of those using the crossing point at Debeli Brijeg. Although these activities are violations of the security regime in the zone, they do not constitute a security threat.

14. The Croatian authorities continue to permit civilians, including local and foreign tourists, to enter the zone for fishing, agricultural and recreational purposes. On one occasion during the period under review, a group of motorcyclists, escorted by Croatian police, was observed in the United Nations-controlled zone. A public telephone installed in January 2000 by Croatian Telecommunications personnel at the Croatian checkpoint at Cape Kobila remains in place, notwithstanding UNMOP's requests that it be removed. The waters of the United Nations-controlled zone continue to be violated frequently by Croatian and Yugoslav fishing boats. On one occasion, a Montenegrin police boat violated the waters of the United Nations-controlled zone.

15. The activities described above, which involve the unauthorized presence of civilians and officials in the United Nations-controlled zone, constitute violations of the agreed security regime. While they do not constitute a security threat, they nevertheless demonstrate that the parties do not feel obliged to ensure full respect for some of the provisions of the security regime freely agreed upon by them.

III. Progress towards a negotiated settlement

16. As members of the Security Council will recall, both the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia have undertaken, in their Agreement on Normalization of Relations signed at Belgrade on 23 August 1996 (S/1996/706, annex), to resolve their dispute over Prevlaka through bilateral negotiations. As reported previously, each Government has submitted a proposal for settling the dispute (see S/1998/533 and S/1998/632) and their negotiating teams have held four rounds of talks, the last one at Belgrade on 9 March 1999.

17. In April 2000, the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations informed me that the authorities of his country had extended an invitation to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to attend a fifth round of negotiations in Croatia at a date to be determined. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has replied to that invitation by a letter dated 8 June 2000 (see S/2000/602).

18. As previously reported (see S/2000/305, para. 14) Croatia conveyed its position on the dispute in a letter addressed to me on 5 April 2000 (S/2000/289). The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, for its part, responded by a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 16 June 2000 (S/2000/602). These letters continue to reflect divergent views on the nature of the dispute and the way ahead.

IV. Confidence-building measures

19. As will be recalled, in October 1999, a "package" of recommendations and options for confidence-building was conveyed to the parties by the Secretariat (see S/1999/1051, para. 20). The package covered basic elements of the dispute, confidence-building measures and freedom of movement for local civilians. Consultations with the parties on the options presented for their consideration have continued during the reporting period. The parties, however, continue to take a selective approach on the options proposed, reflecting their overall divergent views on the dispute.

V. Financial aspects

20. Although an independent mission, for administrative and budgetary purposes UNMOP is treated as part of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH). By its resolution 54/273 of 15 June 2000, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of $158.7 million gross for the maintenance of UNMIBH for the 12-month period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001.

21. Therefore, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNMOP beyond 15 July 2000, as recommended in paragraph 25 below, the costs of maintaining the Mission would be met from within the budget of UNMIBH.

VI. Observations

22. The efforts of UNMOP to convince the parties to devise means of implementing the confidence-building measures proposed by the Secretariat have not been entirely successful and the positions of the parties on the options package as a whole continue to reflect their differing interpretations of the Prevlaka dispute.

23. Against this background, Croatia's invitation to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to attend a fifth round of negotiations, together with the Yugoslav side's acceptance, constitute positive developments. It is hoped, therefore, that the parties will find a common ground for restarting their talks on the resolution of the dispute, their continued divergent positions in that dispute notwithstanding. However, because of the still unsettled general political circumstances in the area, expectations for substantive progress in the near future towards a negotiated solution appear to remain limited.

24. As observed previously (see S/2000/305, para. 19), although the opening and continued operation of the checkpoints at Cape Kobila in the United Nations-controlled zone, as opposed to the operation of the crossing point at Debeli Brijeg in the demilitarized zone, does not of itself constitute a security threat, it is a violation of the United Nations-mandated security regime. As mentioned in my previous report (ibid.), UNMOP stands ready to assist in the development of arrangements to give effect to any agreement on this issue which the parties might reach.

25. Given the importance of ensuring that the situation on the ground continues to be as free of tension as possible, and in order to maintain the conditions of stability which are essential to any meaningful progress towards a political settlement, I recommend that the mandate of UNMOP be extended for a further six months, until 15 January 2001, without change to the current concept of operations. The Security Council may wish to request the parties to continue to report regularly on progress in their talks.

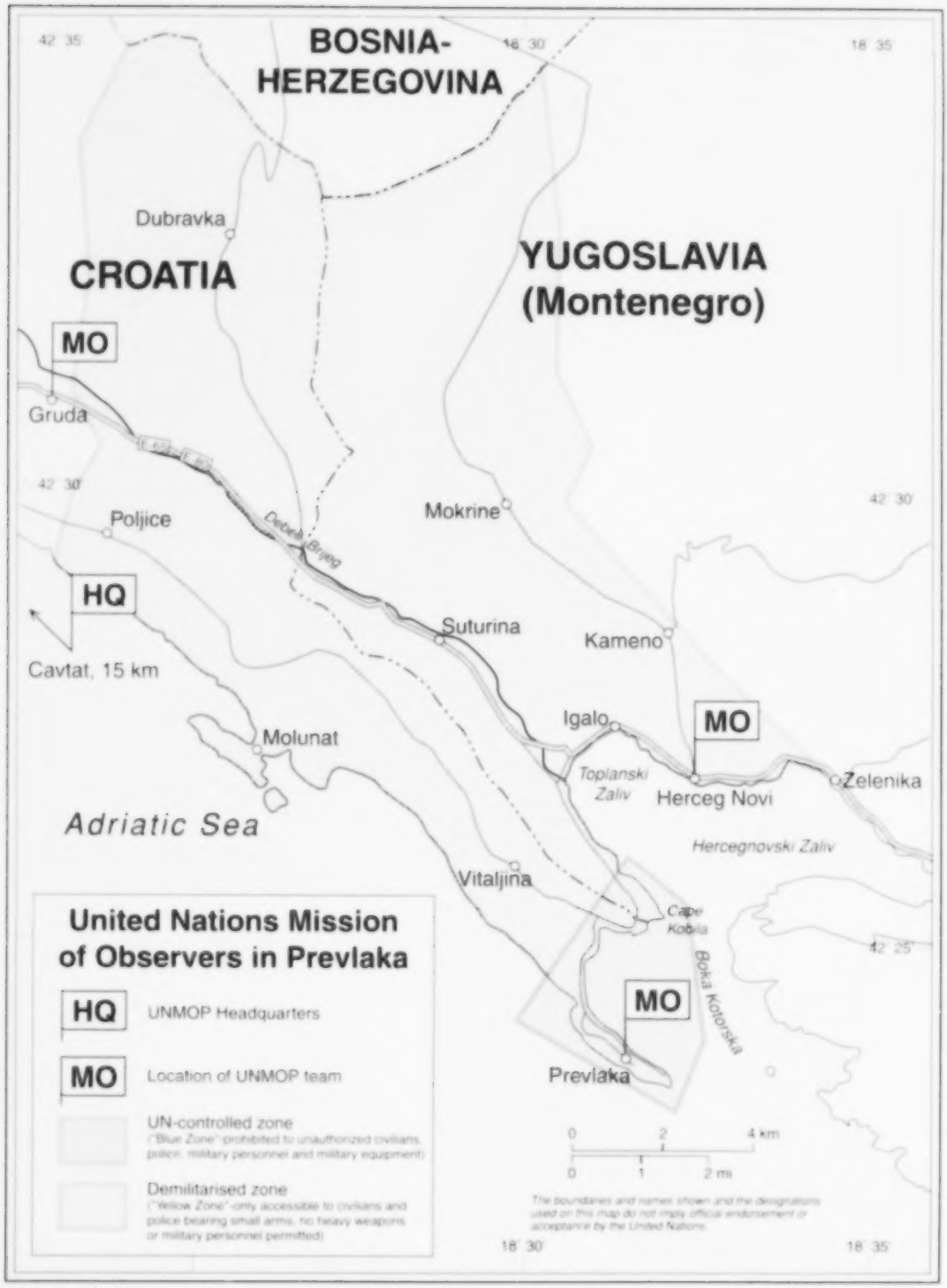
26. In order for UNMOP to fully implement its mandate in its area of responsibility, it is essential that the United Nations military observers be permitted to patrol at all times all areas of the demilitarized zone without preconditions or restrictions on their freedom of movement.

27. In conclusion, I should like to commend the Chief Military Observer and the men and women of UNMOP for their continuing efforts to maintain peace and security in their area of responsibility.

Annex

Composition and strength of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka as at 1 July 2000

Country	*Number of military observers*
Argentina	1
Bangladesh	1
Belgium	1
Brazil	1
Canada	1
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	1
Egypt	1
Finland	1
Ghana	1
Indonesia	2
Ireland	1
Jordan	1
Kenya	1
Nepal	1
New Zealand	2
Nigeria	3
Norway	1
Pakistan	1
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Russian Federation	1
Sweden	1
Switzerland	1
Ukraine	1
Total	**27**



Map 4137 Rev.2 United Nations
July 2000

Department of Public Information
Cartographic Section

United Nations S/2000/648

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 July 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 3 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a joint communiqué issued at the end of a meeting between President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of the Republic of Uganda and President Paul Kagame of Rwanda (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were issued as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Prof. **Semakula Kiwanuka**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations

00-51659 (E) 050700

Annex to the letter dated 3 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint communiqué

1. At The invitation of H.E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of the Republic of Uganda, H.E President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda paid a two-day official working visit to Uganda.

2. The two Heads of State met in a cordial atmosphere, reflecting the historical brotherly relations existing between the peoples of Uganda and Rwanda.

3. The two Heads of State, held fruitful discussions and reviewed areas of mutual interest including bilateral, regional and international issues.

4. On bilateral issues, the two Heads of State stressed the need to consolidate further the relations between the two countries. They agreed on the need to explore new ways and means to further strengthen and deepen relations.

5. The two Heads of State held extensive discussions on the problems affecting the region. On the Democratic Republic of Congo, they reiterated their strong commitment to the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and resolved to work together for its full and expeditious implementation.

6. On the recent clashes between the UPDF and RPA, in Kisangani, the two leaders regretted these unfortunate developments which were a set back to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. In this regard, the two Heads of State reaffirmed their commitment to the demilitization of the city of Kisangani and called on other parties to the Ceasefire Agreement to reciprocate and not take advantage of Rwanda and Uganda's withdrawal from Kisangani.

7. The two Heads of State called upon the United Nations to fully deploy MONUC observers to support the Ceasefire Agreement and to provide necessary and adequate resources to the Facilitator of the National Dialogue and to the JMC to enable them discharge the important tasks assigned to them under the Ceasefire Agreement.

8. At the end of his visit, President Paul Kagame expressed gratitude to President Museveni and the people of Uganda for the warm reception and cordial hospitality extended to him and his delegation during his stay in Uganda.

9. President Kagame extended an invitation to President Museveni to visit Rwanda. The invitation was gladly accepted. The dates will be communicated through diplomatic channels.

Done at Entebbe

2nd July 2000

United Nations S/2000/649

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 July 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 4 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Acting on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to remind you of the relevance of Order No. 116 dated 1 July 2000 made by the International Court of Justice on the request for the indication of provisional measures in the case concerning Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda*).

My Government notes that the Court has done well in basing itself on the devastating consequences of the aggression and on the explosive nature of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to demand that the provisional measures which it indicated in its Order be observed immediately.

The Court enjoined Uganda, *inter alia*, to:

1. Refrain from action which might prejudice the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the whole of its property and natural resources and its rights, respect for the rules of international humanitarian law and the instruments concerning the protection of human rights.

2. Take, forthwith, all measures necessary to comply with the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and with Security Council resolution 1304 (2000), which demands that Ugandan troops and all other forces immediately and completely withdraw from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter).

My Government, fully recognizing the relevant and timely nature of this Order, wishes to pay a well-deserved tribute to the Court for its work and to point out to the Council, in particular, that it is responsible as the United Nations organ charged with the maintenance of international peace and security:

1. For seeing to it that the decisions of the International Court of Justice are respected and facilitating the prompt enforcement thereof, particularly in the present case where the order is one indicating provisional measures.

2. For making sure that delays in enforcing decisions of the Court stemming from the case of the aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo of which it remains seized do not create an unfortunate precedent which might bring the Court, the highest judicial body of the United Nations system, into disrepute.

00-51719 (E) 050700 050700

3. For reaffirming its resolution 1304 (2000) and expediting implementation thereof in order to comply with Order No. 116 of the International Court of Justice, which calls for the immediate withdrawal of Uganda from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo pending a decision by the Court, which remains seized of the matter, on the merits.

My Government requests that you have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) André M. **Kapanga**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2000/650

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 July 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 30 June 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

As you know, the Arusha peace process relating to the Burundi peace negotiations has just entered a crucial phase, and the possibility cannot be ruled out that a peace agreement will be reached by the end of the year. I have therefore decided to extend until 31 October 2000 the appointment of Mr. Ayité Jean-Claude Kpakpo, Senior United Nations Adviser to the Facilitator, which expired on 30 June 2000.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

00-51671 (E) 050700 050700

United Nations S/2000/651

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 July 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 5 July 2000 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 30 June 2000 (S/2000/650) concerning your decision to extend the appointment of Mr. Ayite Jean Claude Kpakpo (Benin) as Senior United Nations Adviser to the Facilitator of the Burundi peace process until 31 October 2000 has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the decision contained in your letter.

(*Signed*) Patricia **Durrant**
President of the Security Council

00-51677 (E) 050700

United Nations S/2000/652

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 July 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 4 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 3 July 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 24 to 30 June 2000 they carried out 126 sorties, 84 of them from Saudi Arabia, 10 from Kuwait and 32 from Turkey, in which they targeted civilian and services-related installations, killing one Iraqi woman and injuring three other civilians. He goes on to call for your intervention with a view to halting such aggression, and he affirms Iraq's inalienable right to defend its territorial integrity and to seek compensation for the damage done by this aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-52133 (E) 070700 070700

Annex to the identical letters dated 4 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 126 sorties in the period from 24 to 30 June 2000, 84 of them from Saudi Arabia, 10 from Kuwait and 32 from Turkey, as shown hereunder. One Iraqi woman was killed and three other civilians were injured in these incidents.

1. In the northern region 32 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1000 hours on 28 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Dokan dam, Zakho and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1230 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1100 hours on 29 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Rawanduz, Aqrah, Zakho and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1235 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 94 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0800 hours on 25 June 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 missions with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace, and they overflew the Lasaf, Salman, Samawah, Ukhaydir South, Nasiriyah, Shinafiyah and Jalibah areas. They attacked a civilian services-related installation in Hamzah village, which is located in the Rifa'i area of Nasiriyah Governorate, wounding two women residents. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0925 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0935 hours on 26 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Najaf, Basrah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Lasaf, Shinafiyah, Ashbajah, Nukhayb, Taqtaqanah, Qal'at Sukkar, Jalibah and Ar'ar areas.

Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1200 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1103 hours on 27 June 2000, United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace, and they overflew the Samawah, Shinafiyah, Najaf South, Jalibah, Lasaf, Rumaythah, Diwaniyah, Hayy, Shatrah, Qal'at Sukkar and Taqtaqanah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1210 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0925 hours on 28 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Basrah, Qurnah, Ashbajah, Lasaf, Nukhayb, Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, Najaf and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1035 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0800 hours on 29 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 14 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Najaf, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Samawah, Lasaf, Afak, Hashimiyah, Kut, Razzazah, Qal'at Salih, Taqtaqanah, Ashbajah, Hayy and Shinafiyah areas. These aircraft attacked a civilian services-related installation, killing one woman and injuring another resident. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0905 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against Iraqi civilian installations, urges the Security Council to perform the duties assigned to it

for the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq